

SOME REFLECTIONS

Upon the

Earl of DANBY,

In Relation to the MURDER of

Sir Edmundbury Godfrey.

In a Letter to a Friend.

I Do in all Sincerity and Christian Love, give you the trouble of these Lines, that you not the rest of your Friends at a distance, may not be altogether ignorant of the Cause which have prevented the Good we expected by the late Sessions of Parliament, which has ended so surprisingly, and so soon, and so much to the trouble of all Parties, except some few concerned in the Black Complot, and Dark Designs have of late been taken: such persons will with all Industry imaginable seek to spread abroad, That the obstinacy of the House of Commons for the Trial of the Earl of Danby, before the Five Popish Lords, and excluding the Bishops from having any Votes therein, contrary to the Judgment of the Lords, made their continuance impracticable, which though perhaps true, as things have been manag'd, yet if the Reasons (which are here inclosed), be considered, and the Grounds for those Reasons (taken in their Secret Committee) be examined, they could not but proceed in the method they did, except they would betray the Trust reposed in them, by suffering the great incendiary and Poison of the Nation to escape in the dark, whilst Floods of others Blood (and perhaps some of Innocents) must have been let out, to Hoodwink the People from discerning the true cause of the decay of Trade, and other dangers and miseries they at present lye under. Therefore the better to clear things to you, I have verbatim transcribed a Paper sent to divers Parliament-men, and examin'd in the Secret Committee of Commons, which is in these words following.

It is generally thought, and there is great reason to believe, that other persons were concerned in the Murder of Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, than have been yet brought upon the Stage. Now to find who these are likely to be, the Rule of Dr. Lloyd in his Funeral Sermon, in *Cassius* his words, is the most proper way, *Cuius est Propter Interest, ut sciret*. If without partiality we can be guided by that Rule, I am of opinion, that we shall find, that we shall find, that we shall find. Therefore not to find faults with others in their guesses, I will take leave to enquire, by some Matter of Fact, whether the Earl of Danby, had not as much reason to wish him out of the World, as any Papist? And then by the same way to enquire, whether he was not as likely to have it in his power to do it? And lastly, whether by some strong Circumstances he was not willing to put that Power in Act, leaving the proof of all to the inquiry of such as are in Authority to do it.

First, I am confident it is not hard to prove, that Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey* when he took the Examinations from Dr. *Oates*, and Dr. *Tongue*, did require of them by the Oath or Oaths they or any of them had taken, to tell him whether the Business had not been reveal'd by them to any other Person, before that time.

To which after some disputes between them, whether they were bound to answer such Questions, First, They did simply and acknowledge, that it had been made known to the Lord Treasurer a long time before.

He then required the punctual time and place: To all which Questions he had Answers proper.

Secondly, It will be as easie to prove, that all this Transaction he immediately made known to Mr. *Coleman*, who at his request went to *Windfor* to inform the Duke of it.

It is likewise certain, that the Duke immediately let the King know of it, who acknowledged he had had a former account of the Plot, and had told the Lord Treasurer the same, whom he believed had never heard of it but from himself.

'Tis certain that my Lord *Danby* did alwaies pretend both to the King, and the Duke, he never had heard of it, till from his Majesty; when 'tis as certain he had correspondence with Dr. *Oates* and Dr. *Tongue*, by the means of Mr. *Kirby* a Merchant, Brother to Col. *Kirby*, long before the time he pretended to have heard of it from the King.

Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey* was the person who sent the Duke the first account of the Plot; he likewise let Mr. *Coleman* know from time to time all he could gather of it, and it can be proved by many witnesses, that they had divers private Meetings to consult about something, during the King's residing at *Windfor*.

When the Duke came back, Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey* attended him, desiring to know his pleasure concerning the News he had sent him by Mr. *Coleman*. The Duke told him, he had told the Lord Treasurer of it: At which Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey* seem'd extremely troubled, because he found the Lord Treasurer did not desire to have it known, being he heard of it long before.

It is well known, Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey* after this received several severe expressions, and much ill language from the Lord *Danby*, of which he complained to divers Persons of Quality, particularly in *Danby's* House, when he waited to speak with him the very morning of that day on which he is said to be Murdered.

Now suppose the Earl of *Danby* had reason to fear the King and Dukes Anger, for concealing the discovery so long before made to him, and that he was willing to keep them in an opinion he knew nothing of it, till he had it from his Majesty; Then who had he so much reason to wish out of the way, as Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*? who had revealed the truth to the Duke, and who was best able by the Examinations he had taken, to make the certainty of it appear to the Parliament, the meeting of whom at that time seem'd as dreadful to the Earl of *Danby*, as it has since prov'd fatal. If this be true, as it is easie to be prov'd, then certainly *Danby* had so much the more reason to wish him out of the way, than any Papist; who could fear him no more than any other Magistrate left behind, seeing the Witnesses of the Plot survive to swear the same before others, as they had done before him: But being made away, none survived who could with the like Authority make appear to the King and Kingdom the Earl of *Danby's* Treachery, in tampering so long with, and concealing a Matter so dangerous to both, as the Plot (whether true or false) must of necessity have proved.

To leave then the first Head, we will come to the second, Whether it was not in his power to put in execution his pleasure therein; and that I am confident none will deny, who considers the mighty Authority he had at that time engross'd, to which all men were forc'd to buckle, and for fear of which, Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*, after divers bitter expressions, and severe reproofs, of meddling too much with Persons and Affairs about him, and the like, was forc'd (notwithstanding his known fortitude) to court, attend, and make friends to be heard by him, in hopes of mollifying that anger he had reason to be apprehensive of, knowing that he, who hazarded Kingdoms, would not spare private men for his purpose: This must needs be the true cause of all his fears and apprehensions, express'd to several Persons of Quality and others, from the time of his complaints, which was then when he was disfavoured by *Danby*; and when he had in all appearance (if not obliged the Papists, yet) been as fair and equal to them as any person in his Station. But supposing they joyned in his Murder, the benefit to be rais'd hereby was certain to be more the Earl of *Danby's* than theirs; so that to contrive it, was meer insatiation in them, but in him a mighty

mighty craft of Diabolical Policy, which by Sir *Edmund*'s first attendance was much more easie for him to compass, than for them who are sworn to have a long time, under hazardous Stratagems, to bring about that, which was the worst mischief to their Cause, they could have thought of in the world. But when it shall be thoroughly consider'd, that he is acknowledg'd to have been with the Earl of *Danby* at his house, after one a clock that day he is said to be murder'd, & perhaps could be proved at the *Lady Cooke* Chamber at two a clock, was he not then more in the Earl of *Danby*'s power, than in men, who were (as is sworn) forc'd to let him go from an unknown house by *St. Clement's*, and by a will tempt him into *Somerset-house-Tard*, there to receive his death. This, I suppose, will make any indifferent person conclude, it was more the interest, and more in his power to destroy him, than all the Papists in *England*, who are said not to have any confederacy with him for the doing of it.

The next thing to be consider'd is, Whether he was not willing to have this wicked Action done, which plainly to prove (but by those that did it) is impossible, and those who have suffer'd for it, say nothing of the matter. Nor must we rely altogether on what the Evidence say, since a great part they spoke to is by hear-say of others, or of the particular passages at and after his death, and not much as yet to the contrivance of it: Nay, something is as easie to contradict what is easie to be prov'd, (*viz.*) That he was at the Earl of *Danby*'s House so late that day.

But let it, in God's Name, be examin'd, Whether Mr. *Christian* carry'd him, when they took Water together at *Whitshal*; where he parted with him, and in what Company he left him; for that man breathing doth not yet appear, (except those that say they were concern'd in his Mother) who ever saw him alive, after Mr. *Christian* and he were together that day. And it is strange, a man so well known as he was, should spend a whole afternoon, & no man come to own the place he was in, for so many hours as past between his being at the Earl of *Danby*'s house, and the time he's sworn to enter into *Somerset-house* in the *Strand*. Can it be likely he was ever out of his enemies hands from the time that he remain'd invisible, to the time of his Murder? No surely. Let *Christian* and *Ramsay* be thoroughly examin'd and press'd, where they kept him all that time, what Jesuits or others they confederated withal, to deliver or betray him to his Executioners, and where they themselves spent their time that day. If this be done impartially, and things traced thoroughly, no doubt more will appear of the Murder and the Plot, than hath hitherto been reveal'd.

Mr. *Christian*
the L. Treasur-
ers Gentleman,
with whom Sir
E. G. took water
at the Privy
Stairs.

It would be necessary to trace from Dr. *Lloyd*, who first was Author of what he was told, some hours before the discovery, (*viz.*) That he was found with his own Sword through his Body; and that Report too, that he had two wounds about him. Let this be done impartially, and suffer the honest Persons (who like *Daniel* are zealous to discover the truth) be protected in their Enquiries, and no doubt all the wicked Instruments will be discover'd, to the glory of God, and the revenge of innocent Blood, which otherwise may cry for Judgment against the Land.

NOW if you observe, the Author of this, be it who he will, does only point them out a way, to discover more of the great mystery of Iniquity on foot, than had been before consider'd; which though the House of Commons did not directly follow, yet upon scrutiny of many things therein, they found plainly these Particulars:

First, That the Earl of *Danby* had held Correspondence with *Oates* and *Tongue*, long before the Plot was discover'd to the King, that divers secret Meetings were between them at *Fox-Hall*, where, in the Alms-house *Oates* and *Tongue* lodg'd, to be ready for their meeting with the Earl of *Danby*, at an Inn kept by a Painter, near the Landing-place there. These things being certain, they concluded, that either the Earl of *Danby* was in the Plot, untill he found it discover'd to the King, & then to save himself, fell on *Coleman*, and the rest; or otherwise, that he was the original inventor of it, and procurer of the witnesses, to involve the Nation in blood, and to ruine the Duke of *York*, and destroy all the Papists, for purposes of his own; This made the Commons resolve on his Trial: For though they were sufficiently alarm'd by the Plot, to provide new Laws against Popery, yet are they unwilling to destroy Papists themselves, (if innocent) that such Blood might not cry for vengeance against the Nation. But if the Earl of *Danby* had been first try'd, then upon the proofs aforesaid he must have made his defence, either averring the Plot to be true, and his wil-
lingness

ingness it should have taken effect, by his concealing it so long, so that he was able to
invention of his own, that he by falling on a Party suspected before, and now charged with
such horrid Crimes and new Designs, might justify the keeping up of an Army, against the
opinion of Parliament, and escape the Impediment, he could not but expect at their Meet-
ing. Either of these defences must have enlightened the Commons in their Proceedings
against the Lords; for if they had been to be guilty by the Earl of *Danby*, and he found
joynt-Conspirator with them, then the Commons had had much safer proof to rely on, than
they have by men, whose ill Lives formerly render them suspected testimonies, even to the
most zealous against Popery, and perhaps by counter-Evidence prepared by the Lords, they
might have been fully set by as persons of men, if he had owned the Plot, for the further
or any other Reasons, then had he naturally cleared such of the five Lords, as had not been
parties perhaps with him in the Murder of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*, which the foregoing
Paper lays so close at his door. This is the true cause of the Commons adhering to their
Votes, & upon the whole cannot but be commended by all good men, & consequently their
sudden breaking off, is a trouble to all, who have no design but the discovery of truth; and
I find the Papists themselves have the most dreadful apprehensions of it, knowing that du-
ring the recess, 'tis their Blood will be the pledge given to the People of their pretended
zeal against Popery; who have had power to obstruct Justice against the Earl of *Danby*. But
I am confident such proceedings will find a suitable return, for though some few of the Rab-
ble for some time are gull'd, yet will such cruel Councils be detested by all thinking men,
when they see only those men destroy'd, whose blind zeal at worst has made them Crimi-
nals; and that not so much to punish them, as to clear the eyes of Justice, and to save the
Man, who of all the World hath the most betray'd his Trust, in corresponding with *France*,
to sell the Honour of the Nation, which as plainly appears by his own Letters, as *Coleman's*
did by his, by Contrivances to establish a standing Army to enslave us, his Practices to sow
discord in the Royal Family, his bribing of Commons in Parliament to betray that Trust re-
posed in them, and all other his visible black Crimes, does plainly appear the worst of Men,
and the ruiner of his King and Countrey. I say, these things (let them be who they will
advise them) threaten us with Judgement; from the coming of which upon us, let us
humbly offer up our prayers to the All-seeing God, from whom none of their secret Pur-
poses are hid, who is able, and will at last, return all their Crimes into their own bosoms,
in which day none will escape from his vengeance, but such as from their souls love truth,
and preserve their hearts and hands from seeking innocent Blood and Malice, which shall
be the true and constant End.

Thus

J. B.